

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 141515Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECDEF

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4042

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1885

FOR SECRETARY RUMSFELD FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (RUMSFELD, DONALD)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY RUMSFELD TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: SECDEF 6433 DTG 060014Z MAR 76.

1. REF INDICATED YOU ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA
IN
LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE, AND ARE CONSIDERING HOLDING JOINT SECURITY
COM-
MISSION MEETINGS AT THAT TIME.

2. SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE MOST WELCOME, AND, I BELIEVE, BENEFICIAL IN
FURTHERING OUR EFFORTS HERE IN THE MILITARY FIELD.

3. IN CONSIDERING THE MECHANICS OF THE VISIT, I FEEL IT WOULD BE BEST
IF YOU CAME AT THE INVITATION OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, SINCE THE SAUDIS

HAVE HAD A GREAT MANY SELF-INVITED VISITORS RECENTLY. A VISIT AT THEIR

REQUEST WOULD ALSO FACILITATE DRAWING THEM OUT TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE
IN STRUCTURING ANY DISCUSSIONS THAT MIGHT TAKE PLACE.

4. THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS APPROACH WAS LAID LAST SEPTEMBER WHEN HRH
PRINCE FAHD, SECOND DEP PM, ASKED SECRETARY KISSINGER ABOUT THE
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POSSIBILITY OF A SECDEF VISIT. WITH YOUR CONCURRENCE, WE WILL REQUEST

SECRETARY KISSINGER TO SEND A LETTER TO PRINCE FAHD REMINDING HIM OF THE DISCUSSION AND LETTING HIM KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE AVAILABLE TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA BETWEEN LATE MAY AND THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE. (I MUST BE IN THE US THE SECOND WEEK IN JUNE TO PARTICIPATE IN BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES AND WOULD HOPE THE VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THAT TIME.)

5. I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST, SINCE SAUDI ASSETS ARE LIMITED, THAT YOUR PARTY BE RELATIVELY SMALL, PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES OF A SIMILAR VISIT BY SECRETARY CLEMENTS LAST APRIL WHEN HIS GROUP TOTALLED TWELVE.

6. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHETHER YOU CAN MAKE THE VISIT AND WHETHER THE TIME FRAME IS FEASIBLE, AND WE WILL PROCEED FROM THIS END.
PORTER

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